

# **THE JACOBS REPORT**

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**FOURTEENTH DISTRICT**

**For Immediate Release**

**May 19, 2006 EARLY EDITION**

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## **JACOBS: MICHIGAN NEEDS PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION**

### **Constitutional Amendment to Provide Funding Introduced**

Sen. Gilda Z. Jacobs (D-Huntington Woods) this week introduced a Senate Joint Resolution (SJR L) that would allow a public transportation authority to levy a supplemental sales tax within the limits of the county it serves. The resolution calls for a possible half-cent tax for transit, and an additional half-cent for roads.

“We have long been advocating for a Southeast Michigan transportation system that would be a model of regional transportation, while lessening our dependence on mid-east oil,” Jacobs said. “It’s time to move forward on the issue of public transportation so we can compete with other states for the jobs and commerce that have eluded us. In addition, the funding would provide needed road improvements.”

This supplemental tax could only be levied with the approval of a majority of the registered voters residing in the affected public authority. Most metro regions in United States have similar rapid transit components funded by a regional sales tax.

The Jacobs resolution would require a two-thirds majority approval from both houses of the Legislature before going to voters for their approval. The Michigan Constitution does not allow citizens to consider non-property tax public investment in transit. Thus, the constitutional amendment (joint resolution) is necessary to make this step possible.

“Michigan has been in the same development pattern for the past 50 years,” said Senator Jacobs. “We need new strategies and tools if we are going to successfully tackle our infrastructure and economic disadvantages.

## **SENATE CUTS 1.3% FROM GENERAL GOVERNMENT BUDGET**

### **Net Savings: \$3.9 Million**

A Senate Appropriations subcommittee sliced 1.3 percent from next year’s General Government budget, resulting in a modest \$3.9 million cut. Six state departments, the executive office and the Legislature will be affected. The Department of Information and Technology, which took larger cuts in last year’s Senate budget bill, was held harmless.

General Government Subcommittee also cut \$2.7 million in job training grants and erased \$13,900 in revenue sharing that was earmarked for special censuses.

The cuts were necessary to balance the Fiscal Year 2007 budget. Tax loophole closings and college scholarship cuts were also on the table, but as of this week, those options are not in the mix.

The budget also prohibits the state government from funding the administration of a payroll deduction plan that allows state employees to contribute to union political committees.

The Senate panel did not go along with the 2 percent increase to revenue sharing that was adopted in the House. Also differing from the House, the Senate put the Michigan Strategic Fund within the Department of Treasury budget, as the governor requested. The House kept it in the Department of Labor and Economic Growth (DLEG).

## **JACOBS BILL REQUIRES AEDs IN AMBULANCES**

### **DCH Report: Many Do Not Have Them**

Depending on where you live and the law of percentages, the emergency unit responding to your (or your loved one's) health crisis may not come equipped with crucial life-saving tools.

The EMS and Trauma Systems Office does not currently require Medical First Response, Basic or Limited Advanced life support vehicles to carry automated external defibrillators.

An automated external defibrillator (AED) is a portable electronic device that diagnoses and treats cardiac arrest by reestablishing an effective heart rhythm. This treatment is called defibrillation, which applies an electric shock to the entire heart muscle, uniformly clearing the electrical activity of the heart, hopefully allowing it to resynchronize.

The use of AEDs is taught in many basic life support (BLS) classes.

In order to determine current status or numbers of AEDs carried on Medical First Response, Basic and Limited Advanced life support vehicles, Senator Jacobs amended legislation last year requiring a departmental review.

Despite a Federal Office of Rural Health Policy's Rural Access to Emergency Devices Grant Program and a continuation grant for FY 2003/2004, only 80% of Michigan's basic life support and limited advanced life support vehicles come equipped with AEDs. The department further estimates that all Basic and Limited Advanced life support vehicles within fire departments have AEDs, while a higher percentage of the private EMS agencies licensed at the basic and limited advanced level do not have AEDs.

"Automated external defibrillators can be found in corporate and governmental offices, shopping centers, airports, restaurants, hotels, sports stadiums, schools and universities, community centers, and other places where large groups of people gather and the risk of a sudden cardiac arrest incident is likely," said Senator Gilda Z. Jacobs (D-Huntington Woods). "In some cities, all police vehicles carry an AED. The fact that 20% of Michigan life support vehicles don't bother to carry them is unacceptable."

Jacobs' Senate Bill 1274, introduced this week, would put an end to this practice by requiring AEDs in all life support vehicles.

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State Senator Gilda Jacobs represents the 14<sup>th</sup> Senate District, which includes Beverly Hills, Bingham Farms, Farmington, Farmington Hills, Ferndale, Franklin, Hazel Park, Huntington Woods, Lathrup Village, Oak Park, Pleasant Ridge, Royal Oak Township, Southfield, and Southfield Township. She is the Minority Vice Chair of the Families & Human Services Committee and the Economic Development, Small Business & Regulatory Reform Committee. She also serves on the Government Operations and Health Policy Committees.

Constituents of the 14<sup>th</sup> District may contact Senator Jacobs at [sengiacobs@senate.michigan.gov](mailto:sengiacobs@senate.michigan.gov) or toll-free at 1-888-937-4453.

This newsletter is produced in single-space form in order to save paper and transmission costs.

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